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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 BOGOTA 005795

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/07/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [MASS](#) [PREF](#) [EAID](#) [KJUS](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: PLAN COLOMBIA IMPLEMENTATION ROUND-UP, MAY, 2005

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Milton K. Drucker for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (U) The following is an update of Plan Colombia activities reported during May, 2005.

DOJ/JSRP

2. (U) DOJ continued to provide training and technical assistance through the Justice Sector Reform Program (JSRP). DOJ sponsored a three-week visit to the U.S. for 13 evidence custodians to observe and experience evidence management procedures in three U.S. cities, to assist in the development of evidence custodial procedures in Colombia. DOJ also donated forensic equipment and supplies to replenish 41 mobile crime scene kits for the Fiscalía's National Human Rights Unit and its eleven regional units.

3. (U) The following DOJ training programs also took place in May:

-- The "Investigator as a Witness" course was offered in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Bucaramanga, Villavicencio, Tunja, Ibague and Yopal to 780 Colombian National Police (CNP) investigators. The course focused on crime scene management, report writing, and testimony in court.

-- The "Instructor Development for Patrol Officer Training" course was offered in Tunja, Cali and Bucaramanga to 90 CNP officers. This course focuses on developing trainers to instruct their colleagues on the new criminal procedure code and the accusatory system.

-- The "Anti-Kidnapping" course was offered by the JSRP and the FBI in Bogota for 36 prosecutors and investigators from the National Anti-kidnapping Unit and regional units. The course used classroom presentations, mock crime scene investigation and mock trials to focus on investigation and prosecution strategy, crime scene and evidence management, interview techniques, and presentation of evidence and testimony in court.

-- The "Trial Advocacy Training" course was offered in Cali and Bucaramanga to 120 prosecutors and 60 CNP investigators. Assistant United States Attorneys assisted in these training sessions, which focused on the new criminal procedure code, the accusatory system, handling evidence, trial techniques and mock court proceedings and trials.

-- The "Intellectual Property Theft Investigations" course was offered in Cali to 30 CNP investigators and forensic examiners. The course focused on understanding the crime of intellectual property theft, investigation techniques and strategy, and practical exercises and court proceedings.

-- The "Financial Analysis and Database Management" course was offered to 50 prosecutors and investigators from the National Anti-Corruption Unit and the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Unit. The course focused on conducting financial investigations under the new criminal procedure code, and analyzing financial documents and database information.

-- The "Leadership Training for Police Commanders and Unit Chiefs" course was offered in Medellin to 30 CNP officials. The course focused on preventing corruption.

-- The "Crime Scene Management Training" course was offered in Monteria to 25 CNP officers.

-- The "Judicial Protection" course was offered by the U.S. Marshals Service in Bogota to 40 protection personnel. The course focused on tactical firearms training, motorcade control, building searches, bomb detection, counter-surveillance, and personnel protection.

-- The "Post-Blast Crime Scene" course was offered by DOJ and ATF in Bogota to 30 CNP investigators, bomb technicians and forensic experts, as well as members of the CTI, DAS and the Institute for Legal Medicine and Forensic Science (ILMFS). The course focused on explosive theory, investigative techniques, evidence and chain of custody, live fire explosive demonstrations, and post-blast crime scene reconstruction. Five ATF explosives instructors from the

U.S. provided instruction.

MILGROUP

14. (C) In April, the 12th Counter-Guerilla Brigade (BCG) was successful in an attack against FARC forces. Elements of the 12th BCG engaged a FARC element of 20 men en route to attack the Florencia airport, killing eleven. In early May, Brigadier General Luis Alberto Ardila Silva, the Commander (CDR) of the 6th Division, and his officer corps, credited the success of the 12th BCG attack to the three months of training they received from U.S. Special Forces (USSF) during the second quarter of FY05. Ardila also said the 12th BCG was showing more aggressiveness and confidence. As a result of this action, Ardila has asked for more of his units to receive USSF training.

15. (C) The Colombian Army (COLAR) staff plan to form a 14th Mobile Brigade (BRIM 14) in July. The unit will be created in Tolemaida and trained there or in Popoyan. Major General Hernan Cadavid Barco, the COLAR Director of Personnel (E-1), said the COLAR will probably not have sufficient personnel to organize a 15th Mobile Brigade (BRIM 15) this year as planned and authorized. The COLAR still plans on forming three more mobile brigades during 2006 (BRIM 16, 17, and 18) if resources are available. The new Rapid Deployment Force (FUDRA)-South will be established after these new units are organized. FUDRA-South headquarters are being built in Larandia, while Caqueta and Putumayo will probably be the area of operations.

16. (U) In light of the Colombian Air Force (COLAF) request to cancel acquisition of two C-130Es from Evergreen Air, the Foreign Military Financing (US \$16 million) will be redirected. The COLAF submitted a letter of request (LOR) for US \$8.7 million to extend the logistics support contract for the C-130 fleet for an additional 3 years. The current contract expires on September 30. The LOR would include the costs of salaries, administration, and parts (US \$1.5 million). The remaining funds may be used to acquire an additional aircraft. USMILGRP Cmdr Embassy Quito, Col. Kevin Saderup, said that the Ecuadorian AF (FAE) may be interested in selling an L-100 aircraft to Colombia. FAE is pricing the aircraft at US \$6 million, and needs the money to invest in other needs of its C-130 fleet. We will recommend that CDR General Edgar Alfonso Lesmez Abad (COLAF) call Brigadier General Edmundo Marcelo Baquero Madera, the new FAE Commander, to discuss.

17. (U) The first night vision goggle (NVG) maintenance course was completed for technicians from the CNP and all Colombian Military (COLMIL) services. The technicians will work in the national NVG lab. Two labs were purchased with USMILGP Army Mission funds, and will be turned over to COLMIL as part of the national maintenance program and Colombian joint national maintenance center.

NAS

18. (U) During the month of May, OV-10s operating from Apiay sprayed approximately 1,604 hectares, while AT-802s operating from Caucausia sprayed approximately 8,508 hectares of coca. Meanwhile, T-65s, operating from Popayan and Valledupar, sprayed 45 hectares of poppy and 1,193 hectares of coca. This combined effort resulted in a total of approximately 11,305 hectares of coca sprayed during the month of May, in addition to the 45 hectares of poppy sprayed. This total surpasses the monthly goal by over 5,300 hectares for a yearly total of more than 85,620 hectares of coca sprayed. In addition, approximately 979 hectares of poppy have been sprayed to date.

19. (U) Eradication and COLAR aircraft were involved in eight incidents involving hostile fire during May, resulting in a total of 18 impacts for the month. Eradication AT-802s received one impact, while OV-10Ds accounted for eleven impacts. In the Plan Colombia Helicopter Program, UH-1Ns received six impacts this month.

10. (U) During the month of May, COLAR Plan Colombia helicopters continued to support CD Brigade troops and Eradication operations in Caucausia and Apiay, as well as training operations in Tolemaida. This month saw Plan Colombia helicopters flying over 1,980 hours, while transporting 2,609 passengers and 151,665 pounds of cargo. This month 108 hours were dedicated to medical evacuation missions, resulting in the evacuation of 27 patients.

11. (U) On May 31, the Plan Colombia helicopter program deployed five UH-1HII aircraft to Saravena, in support of the Infrastructure Security Strategy Program. This project's primary mission is to protect 174 kilometers of petroleum pipeline in the department of Arauca. The aircraft will

support a quick reaction force trained to respond to attacks along the pipeline, as well as support operations directly related to the eradication and interdiction program.

¶12. (C) On May 5, Plan Colombia helicopters conducted an air assault on two objectives with elements of the 1st Battalion, Counter-Narcotics Brigade, in the vicinity of Tumaco, in the department of Narino, in an effort to capture a suspected FARC leader. The Plan Colombia support package consisted of three UH-60 Blackhawks, four gunships, and one Command and Control (C2) aircraft. Due to the number of soldiers required for the operation, two trips were required to ferry the troops. The operation was conducted without injuries or damage to aircraft. As a result of the air mobility provided by Plan Colombia helicopters, seven prisoners were taken along with 32 kilograms of coca paste and several thousand gallons of precursor chemicals. Due to the amount of material captured, personnel from the Office of the Fiscalia required an additional day to process the items, requiring the troops to stay on the ground an additional day as well.

¶13. (U) The OV-10 package concluded a 10-day maintenance stand-down during the early part of May. This stand-down was initiated in order to improve the availability rates of OV-10 spray aircraft. During this time period, refresher training in survival and evasion techniques was given to aircrews and search and rescue personnel, along with safety classes for all personnel. Split operations will still be conducted due to major maintenance in San Jose and spray operations in Apiay. In order to conduct more efficient operations, the Eradication package moved from Apiay Air Force Base to the civil facility in Villavicencio. Plan Colombia K-MAX helicopters were a tremendous asset in assisting with this move.

¶14. (U) Recently the MILGRP and the Training and Assistance Field Team, working in conjunction with the NAS Aviation Unit, have established a basic instrument course for all Colombian Army pilots that have not completed the basic instrument training included in the Initial Entry Rotary Wing courses at either Fort Rucker, Alabama, or in Melgar, Colombia. This initiative is to ensure that every pilot operating Plan Colombia helicopters is trained in DOD/DOS standards. Additionally, tower personnel -- specifically Air Traffic Controllers -- are included in the simulator training program. They will be used along with instructor pilots, unit trainers, and console operators, in order to maximize the available hours in a collective training event.

¶15. (U) An INL Air Wing Aviation Resource Management Survey was conducted in Colombia from May 2-16 to inspect Air Wing programs. Areas inspected include safety, standardization, security, operations, administration, logistics, maintenance, training, armament, and non-rated crewmember personnel. The Air Wing Contractor received many satisfactory and commendable ratings, with only a few minor discrepancies noted. A final report is due in June.

¶16. (U) The working relationship between the Colombian Army Foreign Military Sales(FMS) UH-60 Fleet and the Plan Colombia Fleet has significantly improved, as indicated by the recent events in support eradication operations in Apiay. Specifically, during the insertion of 500 troops from both the Counter-Narcotics and 4th Brigades into spray blocks to conduct security and interdiction missions, the Army helicopter battalion provided one FMS UH-60 to augment the Plan Colombia Helicopter Program (PCHP) UH-60s. Upon extraction of these 500 troops the FMS provided three UH-60s to augment the one PCHP UH-60 available. This is indicative of the growing relationship between the PCHP and the remainder of the COLAR aviation program, and demonstrates the success of using one aircraft as a standard for training and operations.

RSO

¶17. (SBU) Anti-Kidnapping Initiative (AKI): The ninth Crisis Response Training (CRT) course will begin in mid-June and will be completed in late July. Weapons have begun to be issued to AKI participants from the first four CRT courses conducted in 2003 and 2004. All previously trained GOC Anti-Kidnapping Officers (Grupo de Accion Unificada para la Libertad Personal, or GAULA) will be issued weapons and equipment by the end of summer 2005. In the future, all CRT participants will receive their weapons and equipment at the completion of the course. Mr. Victor De Windt, a former DSS Special Agent and RSO, has arrived in country as the new Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA)/AKI country program manager. The GOC has shown much interest in assisting the Government of Paraguay with its anti-kidnapping program using the AKI program as a base. Though not verifiable, official GOC kidnapping figures from January to May 2005 reflect approximately 297 cases, with an extrapolated comparison to approximately 800 registered cases from January to May 2003.

118. (SBU) The AKI data base/data flow project known by the Spanish name of Sistema Integrada de Informacion de Extorcion y Secuestro (SIIES) will begin a pilot test session in mid-June connecting the GAULAs in Bogota and Cuindinamarca with various GOC entities.

119. (SBU) VIP Personal Protection Training (PPT) Program: Ongoing and future training will be for the President's and Vice President's protective details. PPT Instructors will continue to advise the Mayor's protective detail. VIP Personal Protection advisors met with members of President Uribe's family and conducted separate briefings on their personal security profile and responsibilities.

USAID

120. (U) USAID's Agribusiness Partnership Program (CAPP) designed an innovative finance mechanism -- the first of its kind in Colombia -- which allows for public bonds to be issued to directly finance alternative development activities. The mechanism will ultimately be used to establish 10,000 hectares of African Palm trees over a 19-month period in five departments. The first group of bonds, released on May 2 by the Promotora de Proyectos Agroindustriales de Palma de Aceite S.A., raised over US \$6 million from the bond investors. USAID's contribution of nearly US \$1.007 million (3 percent) to the overall US \$34.2 million project cost will leverage US \$14.3 million (42 percent of the total cost) from the owners/growers and US \$18.9 million (55 percent of the total cost) from bond investors. The project will provide licit employment alternatives to roughly 1,300 families.

121. (U) On May 20, President Uribe signed a decree adopting the internal control standards model developed with the assistance of USAID's Anticorruption and Accountability program. The decree makes the internal control standards mandatory for over 3,000 government entities nationwide. Since 2001, USAID has been working to strengthen the ability of GOC entities to develop and implement a National Internal Control System based on better public management. The adoption of this decree will contribute to the improvement of the GOC's efficiency and establish the foundation necessary to evaluate its performance in achieving its management goals.

122. (U) On April 14, USAID's Internally Displaced Persons Program, through its implementing partner CHF International, completed and delivered 100 houses to displaced families in the neighborhood of Villa Esperanza de Malambo (Atlantico). The beneficiary families, who were trained in construction, built the houses themselves. USAID's contribution of roughly US \$280,000 to the overall US \$605,000 project cost leveraged 55 percent in additional funding from the Governor of Atlantico, Children International, and the displaced families themselves.

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